COMMUNITY
SOCIAL PLANNING
COUNCIL OF TORONTO

www.socialplanningtoronto.org

Annual Report

2002/2003

United Way

TORONTO

Our Mission

The Community Social Planning Council of Toronto
is committed to independent
social planning at the local and city-wide levels in order to
improve the quality of life for all people in Toronto.
It is committed to diversity,
equity, social and Economic
justice, and active citizen
participation in all aspects of community life.

Core Functions

Policy Research and Analysis
Studying the social and economic effects on City residents of public policy at all levels of government and developing policy alternatives.

Community Capacity-Building
Strengthening the community resource base to enact
essential social supports and enabling all community stakeholders to participate in decision-making processes on the social development of their communities and city.

Community Education and Advocacy
Promoting community discussion on important social and economic issues and facilitating research-based advocacy, especially for the most marginalized and vulnerable
segments of the population.

Social Reporting
Conducting and facilitating local and city-wide research on social and economic conditions and the impact of a changing political environment on the quality of life for all member of the community.

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President's Report

This time last year, we had completed the most urgent and in some ways the easiest tasks set by the Organizational Review commissioned by the Board of Directors in 2001, and approved in principle in our first Board meeting of 2002. This work gave us a framework for developing systems for planning and accountability of the main work of the Council, and with the appointment of a new Executive Director, the Board prepared to return to its policy development priorities. And I am pleased to report that we have moved carefully in that direction for most of the year. Once we complete the actual strategic planning exercise, slated for the next couple of months, and the recruitment of a new permanent Executive Director, I expect that we can truly say we have completed the amalgamation process begun by our predecessors in 1997-98.

As I reported last year, the Council began with the implementation of the Organizational Review the process of restructuring overdue since amalgamation. A new management structure was proposed by management, in which a Program Director would work directly with research and planning staff to meet and monitor our production commitments, leaving the Executive Director to focus on rebuilding the Council's strengths and reputation with allies, politicians and funders.

In late summer, we had a day-long discussion on the role of community planning, specifically the role of the Council's planners, with nearly 100 stakeholders from across the city. Their deliberations fed into a discussion which is summarized in the "Community Mobilization Strategy (CMS) and the Role of Community Planners". That document set forth objectives and the broad strokes of a plan for reviewing and revising the role of planners in the community and in both providing data and providing validation for the research and policy work of the Council.

In late November, the Council sponsored an equally successful Research Day at Ryerson University. This event brought together research and policy people from partner institutions as well as all three Toronto universities to share information and research strategies in six general subject areas. This event also resulted in a report, which is available on our website at www.socialplanningtoronto.org. Even more importantly, the Research Day has already provided the impetus for a number of research partnerships, and the opportunity for several more. Beyond their very specific results, both of these soundings with members and stakeholders were organized as background material for a strategic planning process, which is occupying the board's attention as we come to another annual meeting.

I am pleased to report that the Board Committees are now functioning in a way that engages virtually every Board Member in on-going policy work.

- In addition to its relatively routine work of reviewing budgets and financial reporting, the Finance Committee, under the guidance of Treasurer Bala Shan has dedicated considerable energy to the review of a number of policy items which facilitate the work of the Financial Manager, for example in the handling and reporting of funds held in trust. I want to acknowledge in particular the support of Dennis Fair, former treasurer, who spent an additional three years on the Finance Committee, before resigning to take up other challenges.
- Following up on a governance workshop just before the last Annual Meeting, the Governance Committee, in the capable hands of Secretary Linda Torney, has taken responsibility for a really top-notch board manual and a very careful review of bylaws, and you will see the results of much of that work in the business of the Annual Meeting.

- The careful hand of Board member Mario Calla is evident throughout the program of the Annual Meeting and the report of the Nominations Committee. Consistently busy as Executive Director of a large multi-service agency, Mario has also been consistently available to share the tasks of the Council.
- Although my colleague Sandeep Kumar has had to cope with a nightmarish academic timetable over the past year, he is finishing a second year as chair of the Research Advisory Committee, and it is his doggedness, which saw our first and very successful Research Day. With his advice and encouragement, last year we added to the Board Dr. Usha George and Dr. Mohammad Qadeer from the committee, and their assistance has been central to achieving the enormous volume of work of the committee over the past year.
- Dr. Qadeer has also been of inestimable help in leading our thinking around the Strategic Planning exercise we have been preparing for since the Organizational Review. I am confident his prodigious work behind the scenes will be fully rewarded as the actual Planning Day and its reporting and implementation go forward in time for our next planning cycle this fall.
- My colleague Amanuel Melles persists in his good-natured way to make my job possible by taking on responsibility for personnel policy, and in particular since the beginning of 2003, in leading our new Executive Director search.
- The Executive Committee has worked throughout the year as a team and I believe its leadership has been an important asset in the rebuilding of our credibility in the community.

As you will know from my periodic membership letters, all the incredible work of Board and staff were not sufficient to prevent some funding reductions from our core funders. At the same time, however, I am very proud of the fact that we have made some important strides in diversifying our funding base, and am confident that by this time next year, we will be fully in a position to meet all the most urgent needs of Toronto for an independent voice for integrated social planning.

Senior Staff Changes

A critical change proposed with the adoption of the Organizational Review was the restructuring of the management team to include a Program Manager, with responsibilities for supporting the Executive Director particularly in program development and delivery. I was privileged to be part of the hiring process, which brought Ted Richmond to the Council as our first Program Manager of October 1, 2002. For those who don't know Ted, he spent many years at the Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants and more recently was the Coordinator of the tri-university Centre of Excellence in Research on Immigration and Settlement. His steady hand internally and his long history with many of our stakeholders has been essential to the funding diversification which has been one of our priorities over the past year.

At our last annual meeting, we welcomed a new Executive Director to his job. Unfortunately, after six months of intense work to recover the post-amalgamation difficulties, Keith Wong decided he could not maintain the pace and energy to face further restructuring, and so regrettably submitted his resignation at the end of 2002.

Finally, I am sure all staff and Board members will join me in acknowledging the contributions and the patience of our Interim Executive Director, John Doherty, who came to us a second time in January 2003.

Janet Maher
President

Interim Executive Director's Report

There is no doubt that the problems facing Toronto as a city and the fate of other large urban centres in Canada are gaining more attention these days. It is not that these are new problems, it just that after years of ignoring the problems of the city it is a bit surprising to see senior levels of government talk about some of the problems.

This gives the Council and our partners an opportunity to press key community based issues and to ensure the debate is not just about taxation but of building a healthy, democratic city.

The Council has a full slate of research policy development and community mobilization planned for 2003. The two main research activities for 2003 are in the areas of ESL, and housing. With about half of the City's population born outside of Canada, accessible language training for newcomers is essential to their finding work and participating in the community. Maintaining adequate language training is also linked to issues of education funding cutbacks and community use of school space. With respect to housing issues we will do an inventory of recent research, identifying key policy issues as well as
priorities for further research.

Another key issue the Council will be addressing with be the service gaps that exist in many parts of Toronto. Since amalgamation, the gaps in various parts of the City are even more obvious. There are some communities that have very little in the way of community based services to support the community. These gaps are generally linked to areas of poverty and certain ethno-cultural communities. The work of the Council will be to identify key communities that face this gap, and then develop policy options to address these gaps in services that address the needs of the different communities of interests.

This work has broad implications for the Councils work. It means that the Council must work to bring to the table a variety of different funders, particularly the federal and provincial governments along with the City and foundations. This work will be done over many years but it is important to a health, community based city.

Community mobilization and advocacy are important parts of the Council's work. Without community participation and involvement, our policy work and research have little impact. Much of the community mobilization is centred around supporting communities access funding to develop and support community services. The work done at 2696 Eglinton, Burnhamthorpe/427 and with the SPACE coalition all support communities of interest to build locally controlled and accountable services

The Council is also focusing on coalitions as the best way to maximize our work in the community. By bring community groups together to work on common projects helps expand the services to the community. This represents a conscious decision on the part of the Board and the staff to focus more of our work in coalitions. The Pay the Rent and Feed the Kids work is a positive example of how our long standing work on welfare reform is put into action through our support for this critical campaign.

This year, the Council is embarking on a strategic planning process. From a staff perspective, the strategic planning process will help the Council sharpen is program focus. The aim of the strategic planning is to seek input and ideas on where the Council can be more effective in its work. While the Council has been consistent in its work over the past few years on topics such as civic engagement, welfare reform, democracy, equity, housing, children and community services, there is a need to more clearly define how we contribute to these issues and

This year is a key step in our rebuilding process. The Council has come along way in the last two years. This has been led by the Board and implemented by the staff and volunteers. The Board has had the commitment and vision to rebuild; the staff has had the desire to make a difference and support the direction of the Board.

Over the next year we will continue to need you support and advice. I would like to thank all those how have supported us and worked with us for a better Toronto. I would also like to thank our funders for providing us with the funds to make this work a reality.

John Doherty
Interim Executive Director

2002 Program Highlights and Accomplishments

Program activities for the Council during the past year have focussed on research and on community mobilization. Our major research piece, completed early in 2003, was the study "Toronto's Social Infrastructure and Vulnerable Communities in the Post-Amalgamation Era". Another important work is "Discouraged, Diverted and Disentitled", a study of the Ontario Works service delivery model by Dean Herd and Andrew Mitchell. A brief analysis of "Youth Civic Engagement" was also produced; and former Council researcher Kazi Hoque did an analysis of the implications of changes in immigration legislation "Bill C-11 and the City of Toronto: Need for a New Dialogue".

Our Research Day in November, 2003 brought together over 100 colleagues from the NGO, academic and government sectors. Both the morning plenary sessions and the afternoon workshops provided opportunities for shaping an urban research agenda and building partnerships.

Community mobilization, as in past years, has focussed on building civic engagement around the City budget, in collaboration with TCAN and other partner orgranizations. Numerous other local coalitions and initiatives supported by our community planners remain vital to the maintenance of the city's social infrastructure. As well the Council has committed its resources to broader campaigns including "Pay the Rent and Feed the Kids", the coalition for community access to SPACE, and the STATUS campaign in support of the rights of undocumented newcomers.

Our communications have been improved significantly with the production of a monthly electronic bulletin, providing news on activities of the Council and our partners, information on upcoming events, and access to electronic and print resources for progressive social planning. The use of interns and volunteers has also developed, providing us with additional resources to meet some of the data and research requests received from community partners.

The Council has been active with other partners in the various forums and initiatives on "social inclusion" developed by the Laidlaw Foundation. One result of those discussions is a collaborative venture with ethnoracial planning councils of the Alternative Planning Group: "Alternative Planning for a Toronto Social Inclusion Audit".

Our research work next year will focus more on service gaps, particularly ESL and housing issues. Our community planners will continue to organize local blitzes in support of broader campaigns, and devote more effort to mobilizing community input into our research and policy work.

Meeting our challenges with limited resources will remain a constant struggle for the coming year and beyond. In this respect we will continue to work to diversify our funding and to build better partnerships with academics and with community leaders.

Ted Richmond
Program Manager

CSPC-T Staff

Jennifer Bonnell, Community Planner

Richard DiGaetano, Community Planner*

John Doherty, Interim Executive Director

Iwona Grzegorska, Program Support

Margaret Hau, Program Support

Mohamed Ismail, Financial Manager

Yasmin Khan, Community Planner

Mary Micallef, Program Support

Andy Mitchell, Research*

Mustapha Raji, Community Planner

Ted Richmond, Program Manager

Maria Serrano, Office Manager/Executive Assistant

Beth Wilson, Researcher

[illegible]abeth Yohannan, Researcher

Tom Zizys, SCIP Project Consultant

Volunteers/Interns

Rina Tsuchiya

Ruchika Bhalla

Israt Ahmed

Radha Nayar

Maurganne Mooney

Jia Wang

Auditors' Report

To the Members,
Community Social Planning Council of Toronto

We have audited the statement of financial position of Community Social Planning Council of Toronto as at December 31, 2002, the statements of operations and net assets, cash flows, and continuity of special project funds for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the organization's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

Except as explained in the following paragraph, we conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In common with many registered charities, the organization derives revenue form membership fees, donations and other fundraising, the completeness of which is not susceptible of satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, verification of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the organization and we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to membership fees, donation s and other fundraising revenue, excess of revenue over expenses for the year, assets and net assets.

In our opinion, except for the effect of adjustments, if any, which we might have determined to be necessary had we been able to satisfy ourselves concerning the completeness of membership fees, donations and other fundraising revenue referred to in the preceding paragraph, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the organization as at December 31, 2002 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Chartered Accountants
Cowperthwaite Mehta

February 13, 2003

Audited Financial Statement

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2002

	2002	2001
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash	$ 193,745	$ 23,715
Accounts receivable	18,783	121,224
Prepaid expenses and deposits	19,061	19,476
	231,589	164,415
Capital assets (note 3)	5,298	15,894
Trust funds administered for others, net (note 4)	161,457	203,883
	$ 398,344	$ 384,192
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	$ 98,585	$ 72,404
Capital grant	5,298	15,894
Special project funds	62,937	77,869
Trust liability, net (note 4)	161,457	203,883
	229,692	297,646
	328,277	370,050
Net assets		
Unrestricted	70,067	14,142
	$ 398,344	$ 384,192

Approved on behalf of the Board:

Bala Shan, Director

Janet Maher, Director

Audited Financial Statement

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND NET ASSETS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2002

	2002	2001
REVENUE		
United Way grant	$ 587,703	$ 628,002
City of Toronto	399,893	449,893
Donations and other fundraising	14,789	19,116
Other grants	10,596	13,596
Membership fees	8,173	15,986
Consultation fees		7,503
Investment Income	2,295	3,748
Workshops and training	599	95,491
Other income	18,270	18,375
	1,042,318	1,251,710
EXPENSES		
Salaries and benefits	663,872	1,011,755
Building occupancy	123,275	107,816
Purchased services	66,472	42,603
Equipment and maintenance	59,125	71,799
Office and administration	46,163	52,112
Meetings and travel	22,049	23,317
Professional fees	16,123	31,482
Sundry	7,979	6,210
Training		50,840
Bad debts		11,114
Amortization	10,596	10,596
	1,015,654	1,419,644
Excess of revenue over expenses from operations	26,664	(167,934)
Transfer from special projects	29,261	49,014
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR	55,925	(118,920)
Net assets, beginning of year	14,142	133,062
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	**$ 70,067**	**$ 14,142**

CSPC-T Board Members

Thank you to the following Board members who have given so generously of their time:

Ibrahim Absiye
Mario Calla
Luz Bascunan*
Kerrin Churchill*
Darlene Clarke*
Usha George
Avvy Go
Sandeep Kumar
Bea Levis
Janet Maher
Amanuel Melles
Mohammed Qadeer
Bala Shan
Linda Torney
Fred Witteveen*
Lori Yaccato

* Resigned during the year.

CSPC-T Funders

The CSPC-T gratefully acknowledges the support of our funders:

United Way of Greater Toronto

City of Toronto

Human Resources Development Canada

Ministry of Community and Social Services

COMMUNITY
SOCIAL PLANNING
COUNCIL OF TORONTO

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